

Report of the President and Directors of the Alexandria Library Company.

The term for which the interests of the Library were committed to our charge having expired, it becomes our duty to lay before you a brief statement of its affairs, and of the manner in which we have administered the trust confided to us.

Early in the Spring an arrangement was made with the Librarian, by which his entire time was to be devoted to the interests of the company, with an augmentation of salary proportionate to his success in increasing its revenues; but, although many new subscribers were procured, the general depression of business caused the withdrawal of a number of old subscribers, nearly, if not quite, equal to that obtained; and the idea of keeping the Library open during the entire day, was, therefore, abandoned.

The ordinary revenue of the Company is scarcely more than adequate to the liquidation of its current expenses, and it has, therefore, been found impracticable to make the additions to our collection which, under other circumstances, would have been desirable; yet, 92 volumes have been added, 14 by purchase, and 78 by donation. We are under special obligations to the Hon. Wm. Smith, our representative in Congress, for his attention to our interests; the Secretary of the Interior having, by his direction, made us the depositaries of 74 volumes of valuable public documents. We are also indebted to our Senators, Messrs. Mason and Hunter, for similar favors; and to our late President, for a donation of two shares of Alexandria Library and Lyceum stock. The 44 volumes of the Alexandria Gazette, mentioned in our last report as having been entrusted to us by an order of the County Court, have been received, and found to add much to the usefulness of the Library. To accommodate these, and other additions, the erection of the large and substantial new case, on the south side of the room, became necessary, and was effected at as small an expense as was consistent with the requirements.

On the 18th of June last, we had the misfortune to be deprived of the services of our esteemed and most indefatigable President, Francis Miller, esq., his retirement having become necessary in consequence of a contemplated change of residence. We determined to allow the office to remain vacant during the remainder of the year, that the choice of a successor might devolve upon you. A knowledge of the ability with which Mr. Miller discharged the duties of the office, and the zeal with which he forwarded the interests of the Company, led us to feel that though the office may be left a few days, it will be found irreparable.

On the 23rd of September, Norval E. Ford, who for three years had discharged the duties of Librarian, to the perfect satisfaction of the subscribers, having obtained an advantageous position in connection with the Baltimore press, resigned that office, and on the 24th of October, Edw. R. Roxbury was elected to fill the vacancy.

We have been fortunate, this winter, in securing the services of the Rev. E. Yates Reese, D. D., for a series of Lectures on the Poets. These have been well attended; a result which, while it has assisted in replenishing our exhausted treasury, has been also gratifying, as it evinced an appreciation of the literature which we had been led to fear, by former efforts to sustain lectures, did not exist.

The condition of the finances will appear by the report of the Treasurer.

There are in the Library, 4904 volumes, and 2589 volumes have been drawn during the present year—a number less, by about two hundred, than were taken from the shelves last year.

In closing this report, we cannot further express our astonishment, that while there is so much reading in our community, an institution capable of affording such opportunities for an indulgence of the taste for it, should be suffered to languish for want of funds. Surely, the minds of our young people, by an acquaintance with the writings of the greatest historians, novelists, and poets of our own and former periods, than by a perusal of the miserable trash, which, if it does not corrupt the heart, as surely neither ennobles the mind, nor improves the taste; and yet we are told that the sum expended annually by the community in the purchase of trashy periodicals, and so large, that were but a portion of the funds thus appropriated placed at our disposal, the price of subscription could be reduced to a sum merely nominal; a salary sufficient to compensate the Librarian for his entire time could be afforded; and every current publication without delay.

We trust our fellow-citizens will give their serious consideration to this subject, feeling assured that if they can be induced to do so, no further appeal will be necessary to enlist their sympathies for our time-honored institution.

Respectfully submitted by the Board of Directors, RICHARD L. CARNE, Jr., Acting President.

Alexandria, Feb. 21st, 1859.

ALEXANDRIA, 1859.

MONTHLY TAXES. FEBRUARY. 1859.

25 Friday..... 5 29 5 31 D. H. M. 18

26 Saturday..... 6 28 5 32 New..... 11 15 21

27 Sunday..... 6 27 5 31 First..... 11 11 22

28 Monday..... 6 26 5 30 Full..... 11 8 23

1 Tuesday..... 6 24 5 28 Last..... 26 9 14

2 Wednesday..... 6 23 5 27 HIGH WATER.

3 Thursday..... 6 22 5 26 25th, 26th, 27th.

MARINE LIST.

PORT OF ALEXANDRIA—FEBRUARY 24.

ARRIVED.

Sch. Ann Pickering, Leverton, Philadelphia, to S. Shinn.

Sch. Marietta Burr, Nickerson, Boston, to M. Eldridge.

Propeller Diamond Star, Kerwin, Baltimore, to Wheat & Bro.

SAILED.

Ship Venice, Waltham, New Orleans, by Master.

Propeller C. C. Alger, Shore, Philadelphia, by Wm. H. Fowler & Son.

MEMORANDA.

Sch. E. W. Farrington, Robinson, from this port, Ann D. Newton, and West Wind, Kelly, from Georgetown, arrived at New York, 22nd inst.

FIRST WARD MEETING.—A meeting of the Whig and American party of the First Ward, will be held at the First Ward House, to-night, at 7 1/2 o'clock, to nominate a member of the Board of Aldermen, and members of the Common Council.

FOURTH WARD MEETING.—A meeting of the American and Whig party of the Fourth Ward, will be held at the Lancasterian School Room, on Washington street, on Friday, (this evening, at 7 1/2 o'clock, to nominate candidates for City Council.

MANY VOTERS.

A meeting of the citizens voters of the Third Ward, will be held at the School Room of John S. Beach, (over the Gun House), on Friday night next, to nominate members of the City Council on Feb. 24—25.

LECTURE.—The Rev. Dr. REESE will deliver a LECTURE in the Methodist Protestant Church, for the benefit of the Youth's Home Missionary Society, on FRIDAY evening next, the 25th inst., at 7 1/2 o'clock. Subject:—"The Poets of the Sanctuary."

To be held at the store of H. B. Whittington, and at the Door, Feb. 22—23.

N. O. SUGAR.—50 HDS. PRIME SUGAR, just received from New Orleans, per Brig Georgia, for sale low by FOWLE & CO.

NEW ORLEANS MOLASSES.—50 BLS. prime quality NEW ORLEANS MOLASSES, for sale by B. M. LAMBERT.

YARN SOCKS.—We have on hand 1000 pairs of YARN SOCKS, which will be sold cheap. Feb. 25. G. K. WITMER & BROS.

WANTED TO RENT.—A DWELLING HOUSE. For particulars apply to KNOX & BRO.

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